

**ABSTRACT**

The invention is a method of making metallized iron agglomerates by combining iron/steel particles and a reductant material with a cellulose fiber binder material, compacting the combination to form a solid agglomerate, and reducing the iron portions of the agglomerate in a direct reduction furnace. The cellulose fiber binder material provides an agglomerate having improved strength and lower overall cost than comparable agglomerates using binders known in the art.